Accredited Social Health Activist in the community. She creates awareness on health and mobilizes the community towards local health planning, promotes good a health practices and provides a minimum package of curatie care and make timely referrals. She is a woman volunteer with minimum education up to eighth class and is compensated through performance based payment mechanism built into the programme.

(c) and (d) Yes. Common Review Mission I and II under NRHM and Joint Review Missions and Mid-Term review under RCH-II component of NRHM have been undertaken. The Reviews indicate that people in the villages find that ASHAs are playing a useful role in fulfilling their health care needs.

(e) ASHA sahyogini has been playing a vital role in improving the health status of vulnerable section of population in Rajasthan. Presently there are 42496 ASHA sahyogini in 31988 revenue villages. Total budget sanctioned for ASHA component for the year 2009-10 is Rs.41 crores.

National Urban Health Mission

3730. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to launch National Urban Health Mission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) A proposal in this regard is under consideration. After due deliberations, a decision will be taken in this regard.

Bio-medical waste treatment

3731. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has issued guidelines for disposal of bio-medical waste of health care facilities and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether such guidelines provide for common bio-medical waste treatment facilities in close vicinity and if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many such common treatment facilities have been established in the country; and

(d) what are the major constraints insetting up such common treatment facilities?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) National Guidelines on Hospital Waste Management were prepared and circulated to States and Union Territories by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in March, 2002. These guidelines have been prepared to enable hospitals to implement the Bio-Medical (Management

and Handling) Rules, 1988 notified under the Environment Protection Act, 1986, by developing comprehensive plans for segregation, collection, treatment, transportation and disposal of the hospital waste.

(c) and (d) Health being a State subject, such information is not centrally maintained. However as far as Central Government Hospitals namely Safdarjang Hospital, New Delhi, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. New Delhi and Lady Harding Medical College, New Delhi and its associated hospitals are concerned, bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998 is strictly adhered to while disposing of Hospital waste materials.

Welfare officers

3732. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Welfare Officers attached to C.G.H.S. dispensaries in Delhi continue on the post even after their retirement and their functioning is never watched and they act mostly in self interest and as pawns of administration;

(b) whether Government propose to review this system for the better;

(c) if so, by when that is likely to be done with details of thinking of Government on the issue; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) The Area Welfare Officers are nominated by Department of Personnal and Training (DOPT) and are co-opted to the Welfare Committee attached to dispensary. The Area Welfare Officers continue to function till replaced by another officer by DOPT. The CGHS has no role in the appointments of Area Welfare Officer.

Admission to private medical courses

3733. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court recently found sufficient reasons to suspect foul play in admissions to professional medical and dental colleges in the country after it came across two identical cases of students being denied admission to college, offered during counseling;

(b) if so, whether sounding critical of DGHS contention of communication gap, Court was unnerved to the functioning of regulatory bodies in the country that facilitate setting up of private professional colleges without recognition;

(c) if so, what is the latest position and whether any directive has been issued by Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?